



The Joint Commission on Technology and Science held its second full commission meeting of the 2012 Interim on Monday, September 17, 2012 in House Room C of the General Assembly Building. Delegates Tom Rust (chair), John Cosgrove, Kathy Byron, and Bob Purkey, and Senators John Watkins (vice-chair) and John Miller were present.

After Delegate Rust called the meeting to order, JCOTS received a briefing from Leo Schefer, president of the Washington Airports Taskforce, concerning a pilot program using bio-fuels developed through the Commercial Alternative Fuels Initiative. The pilot includes certain flights into Washington Dulles and Washington National Airports. The program is focused on the development and use of a bio-jet fuel that can be mixed with regular JetA fuel.

Mr. Schefer shared that this presents Virginia with a potentially huge economic development opportunity for the production of feedstock and the refining of feedstock into JetA fuel. One potential fuel source is switchgrass, which has been demonstrated to grow well in fields formerly used for tobacco.

Currently, the Secretaries of Agriculture and Forestry, Natural Resources, Transportation, and Commerce and Trade are involved with the program. The Department of Aviation has taken the agency lead, and is working with the Virginia Center for Transportation Innovation and Research at the University of Virginia to produce a report evaluating the potential for the Commonwealth. The Department of Aviation expects an initial report prior to the 2013 Session of the General Assembly. A copy of Mr. Schefer's Power Point presentation is available on the JCOTS website.

Following Mr. Schefer's presentation, JCOTS received its annual report from Sam Nixon, Chief Information Officer of the Commonwealth. Section 2.2-2007 of the Code of Virginia requires the CIO to report annually to JCOTS concerning the use and application of information technology concerning state agencies.

A copy of Mr. Nixon's Power Point presentation is available on the JCOTS website. He focused his presentation on providing an update on transformation, new initiatives, security, IT spending, and future challenges. Members engaged Mr. Nixon with several questions throughout the presentation.

After the formal presentations were complete, the chairmen of each of the 2012 Advisory Committees (Identity Management, Energy, Cybersecurity, and Electronic Meetings) provided a brief update on their work to date, and plans for future meetings.

There was no new business, and no public comment. The meeting was adjourned.

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